

REMARKS

In the non-Office Action mailed on June 29, 2004 (Paper No. 20040620), the Examiner: allowed claims 1-8, 27-45, 60-67, 71-73, 88-90, 94-96, 99, and 100; objected to claims 14, 18, 24, and 70; and rejected claims 9-13, 15-17, 19-23, 25, 26, 46-48, 68, 69, 91-93, 97, and 98 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,871,805 to Lemelson. Applicants herein amend claims 9, 18, 24, 68, 71, and 96; cancel claims 14, 46-48, 70, 91-93, and 97-98; and present new claim 101 to more aptly define the subject matter for which applicants seek protection. As a result, claims 1-13, 15-45, 60-69, 71-73, 88-90, 94-96, and 99-101 are now pending. As discussed in detail below, applicants submit that this response places the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-8, 27-45, 60-67, 71-73, 88-90, 94-96, 99, and 100.

The Examiner objected to claims 14, 18, 24, and 70 as each depending from a rejected claim. In order to address this objection, applicants have: incorporated the language of dependent claim 14 into independent claim 9; incorporated the language of independent claim 9 into dependent claims 18 and 24; and incorporated the language of dependent claim 70 into independent claim 68. For this reason, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-13, 15-17, 19-23, 25, 26, 46-48, 68, 69, 91-93, 97, and 98 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lemelson. While applicants do not believe that this rejection is proper, in order to more promptly conclude the examination of the present application, applicants herein amend the claims to, for each rejected claim, either cancel the claim (claims 46-48, 91-93, and 97-98) or incorporate the language of a dependent claim indicated to be allowable (claims 9-13, 16-23, 25-26, and 68-69). Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

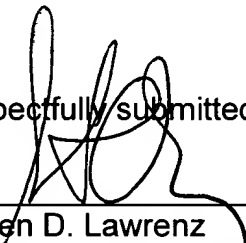
New claim 101 is dependent upon allowed claim 27. As a result, it is similarly allowable. Applicants' amendments to claims 71 and 96 correct a typographical error in each claim regarding the location of the conjunction "and" among the claim's elements.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner does not concur that these amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or otherwise believes that a telephone interview would assist in expediting the examination of the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 291958157US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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